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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
09/872,046	05/31/2001	Donald E. Weder	8403.399	5014
30589	7590 02/24/2004		EXAMINER	
DUNLAP, CODDING & ROGERS P.C. PO BOX 16370			OH, SIMON J	
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73113			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1615	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No. Applicant(s)					
	09/872,046	WEDER, DONALD E.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
*	Simon J. Oh	1615				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.13 after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period w - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).	66(a). In no event, however, may a reply be time within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days fill apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from cause the application to become ABANDONE	nely filed s will be considered timely. the mailing date of this communication. D (35 U.S.C. § 133).				
Status		*				
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 No.	ovember 2003.					
2a) ☐ This action is FINAL . 2b) ☑ This action is non-final.						
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is						
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.						
Disposition of Claims						
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1 and 38-41</u> is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
5) Claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.						
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1 and 38-41</u> is/are rejected.						
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.						
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.						
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner		·				
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).						
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).						
a) All b) Some * c) None of:						
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.						
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No						
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage						
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).						
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.						
Attachment(s)						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date						
B) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)						
Paper No(s)/Mail Date	6)					

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DETAILED ACTION

Papers Received

Receipt is acknowledged of the applicant's amendment, response, drawings, and terminal disclaimer, all received on 17 November 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Koudstaal et al. in view of Burton, Jr. et al. and Antoon, Jr. is hereby withdrawn.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

The rejection of Claims 1 and 38-41 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,784 and Claims 35-46, 62-67, 83-88 and

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97-104 of U.S. Patent No. 6,382,418 has been overcome with the filing of the terminal disclaimer of 17 November 2003.

Claims 1 and 38-41 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 5,921,062; Claims 129 and 156 of U.S. Patent No. 6,357,207; Claims 51 and 82 of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,316; and Claims 25, 46, 92, and 113 of U.S. Patent No. 6,684,605 since the claims, if allowed, would improperly extend the "right to exclude" already granted in the patent.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the patent and is covered by the patent since the patent and the application are claiming common subject matter, as follows: The claims in the aforementioned patents are drawn to methods of using a packaging system for a floral grouping or methods of providing a modified atmosphere package for a floral grouping. The steps in these methods involve providing a package made from material having modified atmosphere characteristics, which further comprises various agents, such as disinfectants, desiccants, anti-fogging agents, and combinations thereof.

Furthermore, there is no apparent reason why applicant was prevented from presenting claims corresponding to those of the instant application during prosecution of the applications that matured into the aforementioned patents. See *In re Schneller*, 397 F.2d 350, 158 USPQ 210 (CCPA 1968). See also MPEP § 804.

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Response to Arguments

The applicant's arguments, received on 17 November 2003, have been considered and are sufficiently persuasive to overcome the prior art rejections of record. The previous rejections under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting have been overcome with the filing of the applicant's terminal disclaimer, also received on 17 November 2003.

New rejections on the grounds of double patenting have been made, which may be overcome with the filing of a proper terminal disclaimer.

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Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon J. Oh whose telephone number is (703) 305-3265. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on (703) 308-2927. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Simon J. Oh Examiner Art Unit 1615

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